materials to the handloom sector, has set up three yarn depots at Guwahati, Bhagalpur and Bihar Sharif and is also supplying yarn to other States like Kerala, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh through the State handloom agencies. The Corporation has also started supply dyes and chemicals.

(b) There is no scheme for supply of yarn to States against their requirement. Figures of civil deliveries, of hank yarn by the mills State-wise are not available. However, the total hank yarn deliveries, for the country as a whole, during 1985 amounted to 373.19 million kgs.

Modernisation of looms

86. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have so far been taken for the modernisation of looms and provision of technological and other inputs for improving the productivity of handloom sector in pursuance of the textile policy announced by Government in 1985; and

(b) what are the details of the amount earmarked for this purpose during the current year and how much of it has actually been spent thereon so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) In order to increase the productivity of looms and quality of fabrics and with a view to ultimately increase the earnings of weavers, greater emphasis has been placed on modernisation of looms and provision of technological and other inputs. Following steps have been taken in this direction:

(i) The quantum of assistance has been increased to Rs. 2,000/- per loom for ordinary loom and Rs. 4,000/- per loom for Semi-automatic|Jacquard loom from Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 2,500/- respectively.

(ii) A sub-Committee on Modernisation of looms has been constituted to assess the suitability of the existing modernisation scheme and make recommendations for improving the package of modernisation of handlooms and its delivery system.

(iii) State-wise targets have been assigned for modernisation of looms for the current year.

(iv) Various training programmes on polyester weaving etc. have been undertaken and it is proposed to organise seminars and publicise the concept of modernisation through the theme pavilion in Handloom Fairs|Expos, etc.

(b) A sum of Rs. 175.00 lakhs has been provided in the current year's budget for the Scheme. A sum of Rs. 34.70 lakhs has been approved for release so far. Further proposal of the order of about Rs. 150 lakhs have also been received from the States so far.

Effects of the new textile policy

87. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the effects of the new textile policy of Government on handlooms, powerlooms and textile mills since its implementation;

(b) whether Government have reviewed from time to time and taken stock of the situation arisen after the implementation of the new textile policy in order to make the policy a success;

(c) what are the bottlenecks being faced by the handloom and powerloom sectors towards producing the required anticipated quantity of handloom and powerloom cloth during the last one year; and

(d) to what extent the prices of textile mill cloth have come down since the implementation of the new textile policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The overall impact of the new textile policy on the textile industry as a whole has been encouraging. The total cloth production by

the three sectors (mills, handlooms and powerlooms) has been 484 million metres higher, having increased from 12,014 in 1984-85 to 12,498 million mteres in 1985-86. The production of cloth during April-1986 of the current financial year (1986-87) is estimated at 3142 million metres as compared to 2988 million metres during the corresponding period of the last year. However, there has been a marginal fall in cloth production by the mill sector, but it has been more than compensated for by the performance of the handloom and powerloom sectors.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no major bottleneck in the handloom and powerloom sectors in production of the required quantity of cloth.

(d) The prices of blended cloth declined by 10 per cent during the period between May, 1985 and May, 1986 after the announcement of the new Textile Policy, However, there has been a marginal increase in the prices of cotton cloth (mills) viz. 2.3 per cent from May, 1985 to September, 1986 as compared to the increase of 8 per cent in general index for all commodities during the same period.

Clearance of cheques by banks

88. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India propose to introduce a new system for the clearance of larger volume of cheques in the cities of Bombay, Delhi and Madras;

(b) if so, what are the details of the new system to be introduced;

(c) to what extent the new system will help in the clearance of outstation cheques promptly; and

(d) by when the new system will be introduced in other cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has a proposal to introduce mechanised cheque processing system using MICR technology for speedy processing of intercity cheques under National Clearing in various cities and also for processing of clearing of local cheques within these cities. The clearance of inter-city cheques under the National Clearing between Bombay and Madras, Bombay and New Delhi and Delhi and Madras has already been brought under operation.

The new MICR based mechanised cheque processing ssytem helps in speedy sorting and clearing of cheques of banks thereby reducing the time lag in handling large volume of local clearing cheques at the various centres and also enables speedy clearing of outstation cheques as well as balancing of Inter-Bank Accounts. As a result of introduction of the National Clearing of Inter-city cheques at Bombay, Madras and New Delhi, the outstation cheques are cleared at these centres in 4-5 days as against previous time lag of upto four weeks.

According to Reserve Bank of India the proposal is to introduce this technology in other cities in a phased manner.

Textile mills taken over by NTC in Orissa

89. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of textile mills which have been taken over by N.T.C. in Orissa and whether the performance of the said mills has improved after being taken over;

(b) what is the annual production of these mills at present; and

(c) how much amount has been spent on these mills till date after these mills have been taken over by N. T. C.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) At present, there is one textile mill viz. Orissa Cotton Mills, Bhagatpur run by the National Textile Corporation in Orissa. This mill has been incurring glosses after nationalisation i.e. from 1974-75. However, during the